

217 Ferry Street  
(Commercial Building)  
Easton  
Northampton County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5546

HABS  
PA.  
48-EATC,  
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABSPA.  
48-EATO.  
7-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

217 Ferry Street  
(Commercial Building)

HABS No. PA-5546

Location: 217 Ferry Street, Easton, Northampton County, PA

USGS Easton Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.482080.4504440

Significance: This small frame, two and one-half story house is a good example of the mid-nineteenth century frame houses of Easton which was converted into a shop at the end of the nineteenth century, and later was incorporated into the George Hellick Coffee Company in the twentieth century with a resulting loss of integrity.

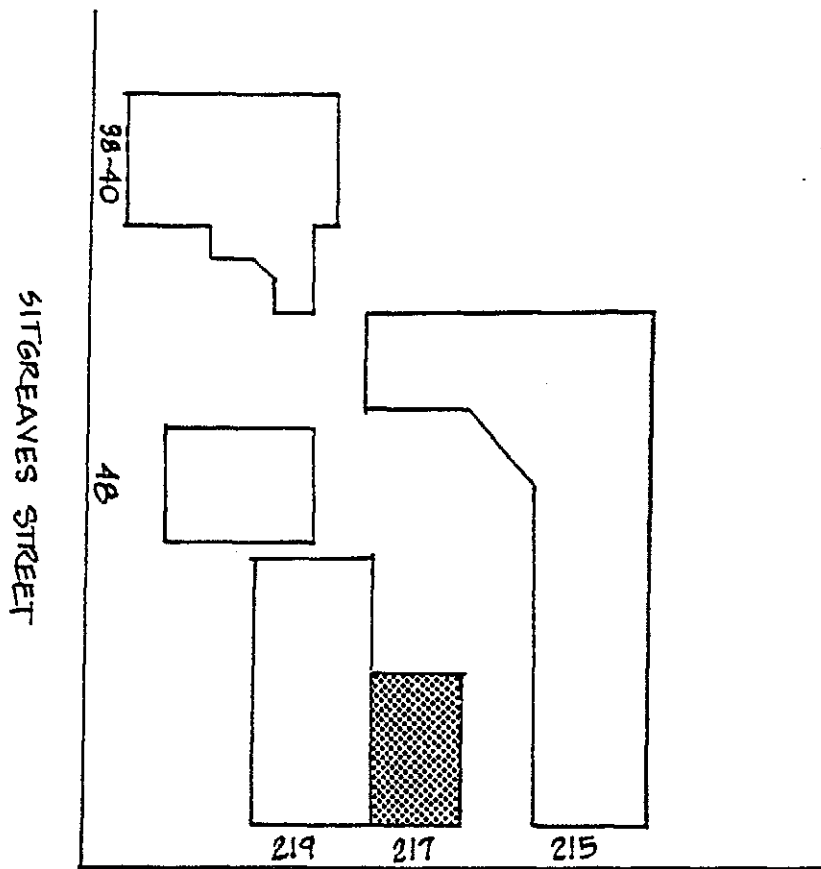
Description: The house at 217 Ferry Street dates from the middle of the nineteenth century, betraying its origins in the original vertical plank skin and gabled roof. Roughly 20' on the front by 43' in depth, this was a typical small city house of mid-century. An 1894 photogravure shows a Downing style wall dormer lighting the attic, which was later replaced by the present gable roof and small dormer, perhaps after a fire indicated in the 1919 Sanborn's Atlas. The front door was on the left with two windows lighting the front room and three windows on the second story. It was constructed sharing a side alley with the adjacent building at 215 Ferry Street.

In plan, it is twenty feet wide by 43 feet deep and opens onto an inaccessible rear court. The entire original interior layout was altered at the end of the nineteenth century when it was combined, with 219 Ferry (HABS No. PA-5547) into a single commercial enterprise. At that time, the lower facade was altered to a commercial bulk window with a small paned transom above, and a new entrance was opened that was shared by 217. Stairs in 217 provide access into the upper levels of 215 Ferry (HABS No. PA-5545) which was adapted into offices. Structural instability of the upper levels makes it impossible to enter that zone. The interior is subdivided into a front room and a rear room, presumably representing the retail function of the building. At a later date in the twentieth century, a large opening was cut through the east wall into the adjacent 215. Presumably at that time the alley between the two buildings was incorporated into the interior.

History: The frame building at 217 Ferry Street was constructed before 1858 and remained a house until after 1884 when it was photographed in a view with the adjacent Easton Engine House No. 1 (HABS No. PA-5547). The physical evidence of the exterior suggests that the facade was altered to serve a commercial purpose around 1890, at the time that the two buildings were commercially linked. In 1927, the building was acquired by the George Hellick Coffee Company; at that time it was connected to 215 Ferry Street where the Hellick Company had operated since 1914. The Easton Historic District was formed in 1983; the properties were

acquired by the United States Postal Service for an addition to the existing postal building.

- Sources: Northampton County Deeds, Vol. D-57, p. 291; Uzal Condit, The History of Easton, PA, 1738-1885, Easton, 1885 p. 347; D. G. Beers, Pomeroy's Atlas of Northampton County, Philadelphia: 1874, pl. 35. Sanborn Atlas of The City of Easton, 1919, sec. 4. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey Form, Barbara Ripley, 1978.
- Historian: George E. Thomas, Ph.D., Emily T. C. Jernigan, Clio Group, Inc. October 11, 1990.

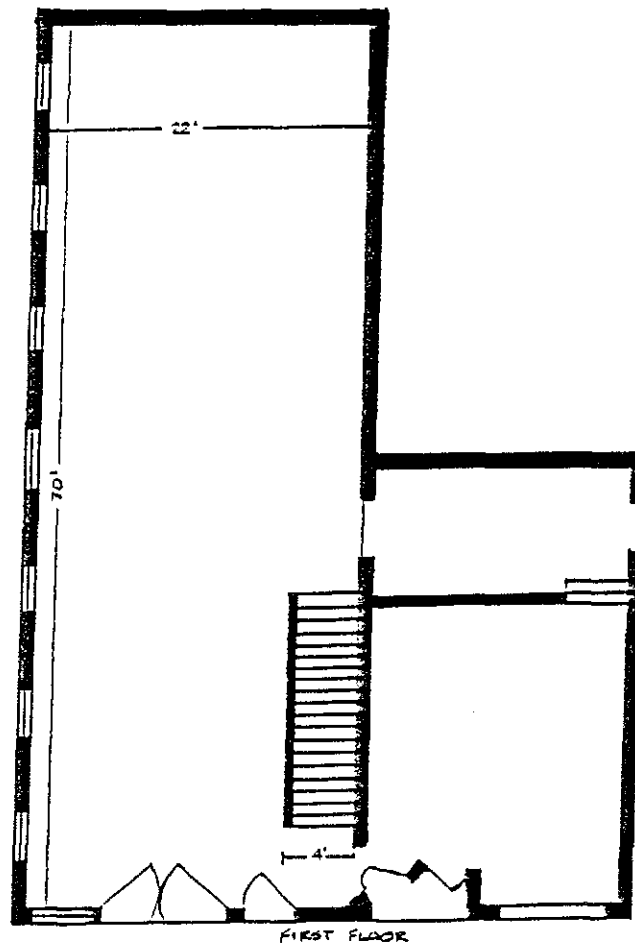


FERRY STREET

EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA



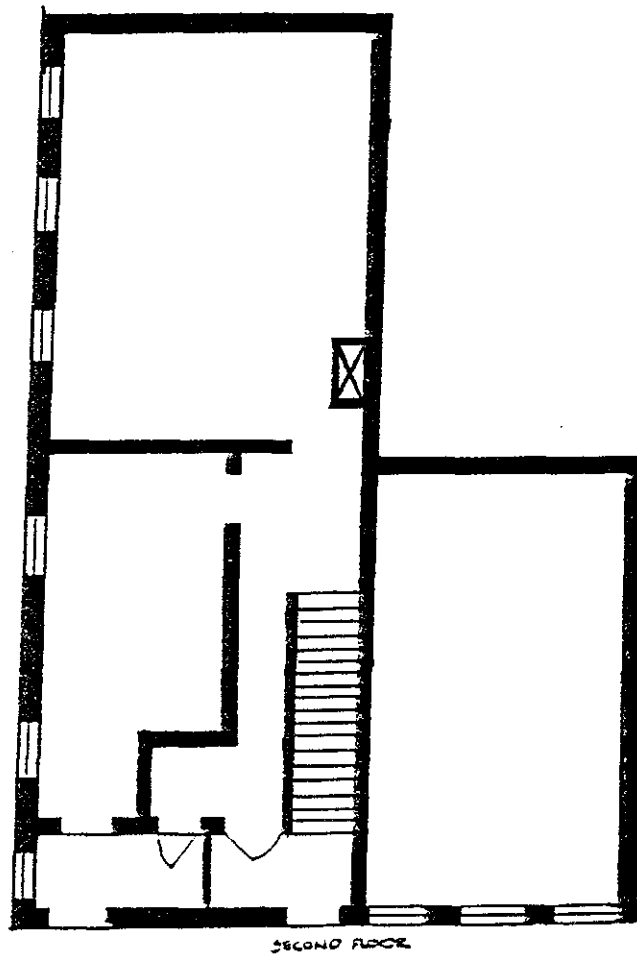
217 Ferry Street (Commercial Building)  
HABS No. PA-5546 (Page 4)



219 FERRY STREET

217 FERRY STREET





219 FERRY STREET

217 FERRY STREET

